

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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## CLAIMS

1. A method for reproducing in vitro the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase activity or the terminal nucleotidyl transferase activity encoded by hepatitis C virus, characterized in that sequences containing NS5B (SEQ ID NO: 1) are used in the reaction mixture.

2. The method for reproducing in vitro the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase activity encoded by HCV according to claim 1, in which NS5B is incorporated in the reaction mixture as NS2-NS5B precursor, said precursor generating, by means of multiple proteolytic events that occur in the overproducing organism, an enzymatically active form of NS5B.

3. The method for reproducing in vitro the terminal nucleotidyl transferase activity encoded by HCV according to claim 1, in which NS5B is incorporated in the reaction mixture as NS2-NS5B precursor, said precursor generating, by means of multiple proteolytic events that occur in the overproducing organism, an enzymatically active form of NS5B.

4. A composition of matter, characterized in that it contains NS5B sequences according to claims 1 to 3.

5. A composition of matter according to claim 4, comprising the proteins whose sequences are described in SEQ ID NO: 1, in sequences contained therein or derived therefrom.

6. Use of the compositions of matter according to claims 4 and 5 to set up an enzymatic test capable of selecting, for therapeutic purposes, compounds that inhibit the enzymatic activity associated with NS5B.

7. Method for reproducing in vitro the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase and terminal nucleotidyl transferase activities of NS5B, compositions of matter and use of said compositions of matter to set up an enzymatic test capable of selecting, for therapeutic purposes, compounds that inhibit the enzymatic activities associated with NS5B, according to the above description, examples and claims.

AND (32)

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